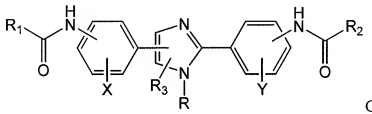
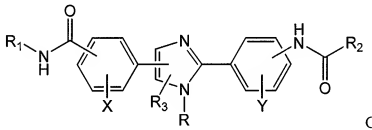
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

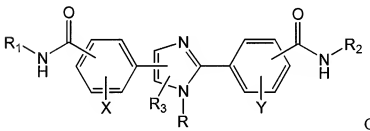
1. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating ~~or preventing~~ an allergic reaction associated with increased IgE levels ~~or for inhibiting NF-κB-mediated cellular proliferation~~ in a mammal, comprising a compound or salt thereof selected from any of the following formulas:



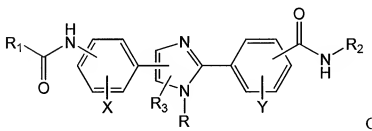
Genus 1;



Genus 2;



Genus 3; and



Genus 4;

wherein R is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_5 alkyl, benzyl, p-fluorobenzyl, and dialkylaminoalkyl, wherein said C_1-C_5 alkyl is selected from the group consisting of a straight chain, branched or cyclic alkyl;

wherein R_3, X, and Y are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, alkyl, substituted alkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, OH, OCH_3, COOH, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, NO_2, COOR", CHO, and COR";

wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, C_3-C_9 cycloalkyl, substituted C_3-C_9 cycloalkyl, polycyclic aliphatic groups, phenyl, substituted phenyl, naphthyl, substituted naphthyl, heterocyclic, and substituted heterocyclic, wherein said heterocyclic and said substituted heterocyclic contain 1-3 heteroatoms, wherein said heteroatom is independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, and wherein R_1 and R_2 are not both methyl or phenyl;

wherein substituents of the substituted alkyl, the substituted C_3-C_9 cycloalkyl, the substituted phenyl, the substituted naphthyl and the substituted heterocyclic are selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, alkyl, substituted alkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, OH, OCH_3, COOH, COOR′, COR′, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, NO_2, NR′R′ and CONR′R′;

wherein R′ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, C_3-C_9 cycloalkyl, substituted C_3-C_9 cycloalkyl, polycyclic aliphatic groups, phenyl, naphthyl, substituted naphthyl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl, wherein said heteroaryl and said substituted heteroaryl contain 1-3 heteroatoms, wherein said heteroatom is independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; ~~and~~

wherein R" is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_9 alkyl, wherein said C_1-C_9 alkyl is selected from the group consisting of straight chain alkyl, branched alkyl, and cyclic alkyl; and

at least a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent.

2. (Previously presented)The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1, wherein said polycyclic aliphatic group is selected from the group consisting of adamantyl, bicycloheptyl, camphoryl, bicyclo[2,2,2]octanyl, and norbornyl.

3. (Previously presented)The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1, wherein said heterocyclic and said substituted heterocyclic is selected from the group consisting of pyridines, thiazoles, isothiazoles, oxazoles, pyrimidines, pyrazines, furans, thiophenes, isoxazoles, pyrroles, pyridazines, 1,2,3-triazines, 1,2,4-triazines, 1,3,5-triazines, pyrazoles, imidazoles, indoles, quinolines, iso-quinolines, benzothiophines, benzofurans, parathiazines, pyrans, chromenes, pyrrolidines, pyrazolidines, imidazolidines, morpholines, thiomorpholines, and the corresponding saturated heterocyclics.

4. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one additional ingredient which is active in reducing at least one symptom associated with said allergic reaction ~~and/or said cellular proliferation~~.

5. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ an allergic reaction in a mammal wherein said reaction is caused by an increase in IgE levels comprising administering an IgE-suppressing amount of at least one compound of Claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 5 further comprising administering at least one additional ingredient which is active in reducing at least one symptom associated with said allergic reaction.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 6, wherein said at least one additional ingredient is selected from the group consisting of a short-acting β_2-adrenergic agonist, a long-acting β_2-adrenergic agonist, an antihistamine, a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, an anticholinergic agent, a corticosteroid, an inflammatory mediator release inhibitor and a leukotriene receptor antagonist.

8. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein said at least one additional ingredient is combined with said at least one IgE-suppressing compound in saida pharmaceutically acceptable diluent and co-administered to the mammal.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, wherein said at least one IgE-suppressing compound is administered at a dose of about 0.01 mg to about 100 mg per kg body weight per day.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said dose is administered in divided doses at regular periodic intervals.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10, wherein said regular periodic intervals occur daily.

12. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ asthma in a mammal comprising administering an IgE-suppressing amount of at least one compound of Claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 12 further comprising administering at least one additional ingredient which is active in reducing at least one symptom associated with said asthma.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said additional ingredient is selected from the group consisting of a short-acting β_2-adrenergic agonist, a long-acting β_2-adrenergic agonist, an antihistamine, a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, an anticholinergic agent, a corticosteroid, an inflammatory mediator release inhibitor and a leukotriene receptor antagonist.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of Claim ~~16~~13, wherein said at least one additional ingredient is combined with said at least one compound of Claim 1 in asaid pharmaceutically acceptable diluent and co-administered to the mammal.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19, wherein said at least one compound of Claim 1 is administered at a dose of about 0.01 mg to about 100 mg per kg body weight per day.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 20, wherein said dose is administered in divided doses at regular periodic intervals.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 21, wherein said regular periodic intervals occur daily.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented)The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the following: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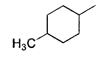
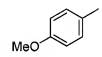

10


11


12


13


14


15


16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and


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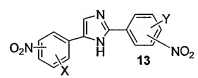
27. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of preparing the compound or salt thereof of Genus 1 as defined in ~~of~~ Claim 1, comprising:

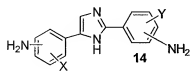
converting a Y-substituted-nitro-benzonitrile to a Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine;

reacting the Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine with X-substituted nitro-phenacyl halide to form a species of the formula **13**


13

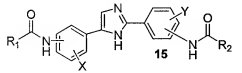
;

reducing the species of the formula **13** to form a species of the formula **14**


14

; and

acylating the species of the formula **14** to form a species of the formula **15**

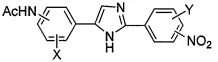


15

28. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of preparing the compound or salt thereof of Genus 1 as defined in ~~of~~ Claim 1, comprising:

converting a Y-substituted nitro-benzonitrile to a Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine;

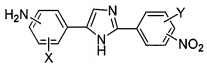
reacting the Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine with X-substituted acetamido-



74

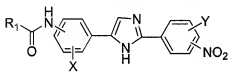
phenacyl halide to form species of the formula **74** ;

hydrolyzing the species of the formula **74** to form a species pf the formula



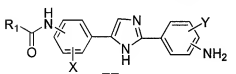
75 ;

acylating the species of the formula **75** to from a species of the formula **76**



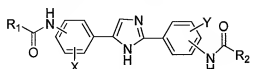
76 ;

reducing the species of the formula **76** to form a species of the formula **77**



77 ; and

acylating the species of the formula **77** to from a species of the formula

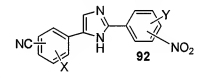


78 **78** .

29. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of preparing the compound or salt thereof of Genus 2 ~~of~~as defined in Claim 1, comprising:

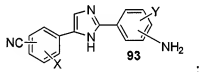
converting a Y-substituted-nitro-benzonitrile to a Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine;

reacting the Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine with X-substituted cyano-phenacyl halide to form a species of the formula **92**



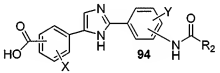
;

reducing the species of the formula **92** to form a species of the formula **93**



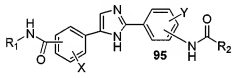
;

acylating the species of the formula **93** and subsequently performing a hydrolysis to form a species of the formula **94**



; and

aminating the species of the formula **94** to form a species of the formula **95**



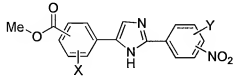
.

30. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of preparing the compound or salt thereof of Genus 2 as defined in ~~of~~ Claim 1, comprising:

converting a Y-substituted nitro-benzonitrile to a Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine;

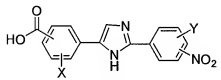
converting methyl X-substituted 4-acetyl benzoate to a methyl X-substituted 4-(alpha-bromoacetyl) benzoate;

reacting the Y-substituted nitro-benzamidine with methyl X-substituted 4-(alpha-bromoacetyl) benzoate to form species of the formula **103**



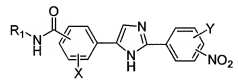
103 ;

hydrolyzing the species of the formula **103** to form a species of the formula **104**



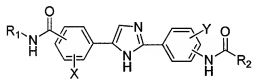
104 ;

aminating the species of the following formula **104** to form a species of the



formula **105** **105** ; and

reducing and amidating the formula **105** to form a species of the formula **106**

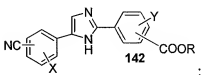


106 .

31. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of preparing the compound or salt thereof of Genus 3 as defined in ~~of~~ Claim 1, comprising:

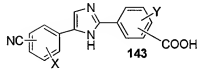
converting a Y-substituted-alkoxycarbonyl-benzonitrile to a Y-substituted alkoxycarbonyl-benzamidine;

reacting the Y-substituted alkoxycarbonyl-benzamidine with X-substituted cyano-phenacyl halide to form a species of the formula **142**



142 ;

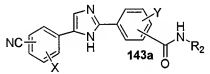
hydrolyzing the species of the formula **142** to form a species of the formula **143**



143

;

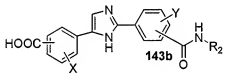
amidating the species of the formula **143** to form a species of the formula **143a**



143a

;

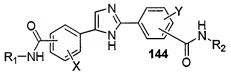
hydrolyzing the species of the formula **143a** to form a species of the formula **143b**



143b

; and

amidating the species of the formula **143b** to form a species of the formula **144**

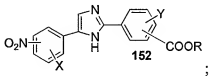


144

32. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A method of preparing the compound or salt thereof of Genus 4 as defined in ~~of~~ Claim 1, comprising:

converting a Y-substituted-alkoxycarbonyl-benzonitrile to a Y-substituted alkoxycarbonyl-benzamidine;

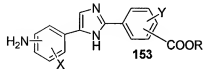
reacting the Y-substituted alkoxycarbonyl-benzamidine with X-substituted nitro-phenacyl halide to form a species of the formula **152**



152

;

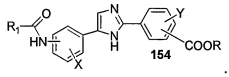
reducing the species of the formula **152** to form a species of the formula **153**



153

;

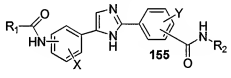
acylating the species of the formula **153** to form a species of the formula **154**



154

; and

amidating the species of the formula **154** to form a species of the formula **155**



155

33. (Previously presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-{4-[5-(4-cycloheptylamino-phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-phenyl}-cycloheptylamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-(4-fluorobenzoylamino)-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-4-fluoro-benzamide,

N-{4-[5-(4-cyclohexylamino-phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-phenyl}-cyclohexylamide,

N-{4-[2-(4-(2,4-dichlorobenzoylamino)-phenyl)-3H-imidazol-4-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dichloro-benzamide,

N-{4-[5-(4-(2-methylcyclohexyl)-amino-phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-phenyl}-(2-methylcyclohexyl)-amide,

N-(3-(5-(3-(1-Adamantanamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-1-adamantanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(3-(1-Adamantanamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-1-adamantanecarboxamide,

N-{4-[5-(4-(2-methylcyclohexyl)-amino-phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]-phenyl}-(4-methylcyclohexyl)-amide,

N-(4-(5-(4-adamantylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)picolinamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-adamantylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-adamantylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-adamantylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-adamantylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)picolinamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2-methylcyclohexylamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cycloheptylamide,

4-chloro-N-(4-(5-(4-(cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)benzamide,

3,4-chloro-N-(4-(5-(4-(cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)benzamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-adamantylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)-4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)picolinamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)benzamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-4-fluorobenzamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-4-chlorobenzamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-3,4-dichlorobenzamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-4-methoxybenzamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)-2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-Adamatylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(2-Methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(4-Methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(Cycloheptanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(Benzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(2,3,4,5,6-Pentafluorobenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(3,4-Dichlorobenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(4-Fluorobenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(4-Chlorobenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(4-Methoxybenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(4-Nitrobenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(1-Adamantanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(2-Methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(4-Methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(Nicotinamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(3,4-Dichlorobenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(2,3,4,5,6-Pentafluorobenzamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(Cycloheptanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

2-Methyl-N-(4-(2-(4-(cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(2-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)nicotinamide,

2-Methyl-N-(4-(2-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)phenyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(2-Methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(2-Methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)picolinamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(pyridin-2-ylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(pyridin-2-ylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cyclohexanecarboxamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(cycloheptylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)benzenamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(cycloheptylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)picolinamide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(cycloheptylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide,

4-(2-(4-(4-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)-N-cycloheptylbenzamide,

4-(2-(4-(2-methylcyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)-N-cycloheptylbenzamide,

4-(2-(4-adamantylamidophenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)-N-cycloheptylbenzamide,

Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid (4-{5-[4-(adamantan-2-ylcarbamoyl)-phenyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}-phenyl)-amide,

N-Adamantan-2-yl-4-[2-[4-(cyclohexanecarbonyl-amino)-phenyl]-3H-imidazol-4-yl}-benzamide,

Cycloheptane carboxylic acid (4-{5-[4-(adamantan-2-ylcarbamoyl)-phenyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}-phenyl)-amide,

Pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (4-{5-[4-(adamantan-2-ylcarbamoyl)-phenyl]-1H-imidazol-2yl}-phenyl)-amide,

N-(4-(5-(4-(Cyclohexylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)picolinamide,

N-(4-(2-(4-(Cyclohexanecarboxamido)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-5-yl)-N-cyclohexylbenzamide, and

N-(4-(5-(4-(Cyclohexylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl)phenyl)cycloheptanecarboxamide.